

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UN, WFC

SUBJECT: N SENIOR POSTS

1. DURING CONVERSATION MAY 31 WITH UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, FOREIGN OFFICE PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY SIR MICHAEL PALLISER INDICATED THE UK WOULD BE WILLING TO WITHDRAW THE CANDIDACY OF SIR FREDERICK KEARNS FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IF THE US WOULD DEFER TO THE UK FOR THE UN'S NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL JOB FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (TCD). AMBASSADOR NEWSOM TOOK NOTE OF THE BRITISH PROPOSAL AND PROMISED A REPLY. EMBASSY SHOULD CONVEY FOLLOWING POINTS TO SIR MICHAEL.

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2. WE APPRECIATE UK EFFORT TO FIND A COMMON GROUND ON THESE POSITIONS BUT REGRET WE CANNOT AGREE TO THEIR PROPOSAL;

-- IN REGARD TO WFC POST, WE BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SUPPORT FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS MAJOR DONORS MUST CONTINUE TO PLAY LEADERSHIP ROLE IN

UN FOOD AGENCIES.

-- US IS PREPARED TO SHARE THIS ROLE, AS INDICATED BY OUR

WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDACY OF WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN FAVOR
OF CANADIAN CANDIDATE (VOGEL).

-- PRESIDENT IS ABOUT TO ANNOUNCE A TOP LEVEL COMMISSION ON
FOOD AND HUNGER HEADED BY SOL LINQUITZ (THIS SHOULD BE
CLOSELY HELD PENDING ANNOUNCEMENT).

-- IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SUPPORT
FOR THE INITIATIVES WE PLAN IN THE FOOD AND NUTRITION
FIELD WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL TO KEEP AN AMERICAN AS WFC
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

-- THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN VIEW OF SIGNIFICANT US
UNDER-REPRESENTATION IN UN FOOD AGENCIES. (FYI: UK, IN
CONTRAST, IS NUMERICALLY OVER-REPRESENTED IN FOOD AGENCIES.)

-- WILLIAMS, WHO HAS CHAIRED DAC FOR FOUR YEARS, HAS
UNEQUALLED QUALIFICATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND HE IS FAVORED
BY WFC PRESIDENT TANGO AND SYG WALDHEIM OVER ALL OTHER
CANDIDATES BUT WALDHEIM IS DELAYING A DECISION DUE TO G-77
POSITION.

-- FACT THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE UNABLE TO AGREE ON A
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SINGLE CANDIDATE WHILE LDCS HAVE ONLY ONE HEIGHTENS RISK
THAT POST WILL GO TO LDCS. AS BUREAU OF WFC NOW ENTIRELY
STAFFED BY LDC OFFICERS, THIS COULD IMPERIL FUTURE OF WFC.

-- THE TCD POSITION IS LOGICAL SENIOR POST IN RESTRUCTURED
UN ECONOMIC SPHERE TO BE HELD BY US, THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR
TO UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.

-- PRESENT ACTING INCUMBENT OF MOST IS AMERICAN WHO
OCCUPIED POSITION, ALBEIT AT A LOWER GRADE, PRIOR TO
RESTRUCTURING. HE HEADED PREDECESSOR ORGANIZATION AS
DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION. US HAS LOST
DIRECTORSHIP OF CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECTION
AND POLICIES AS RESULT OF RESTRUCTURING AND CANNOT LOSE
ANOTHER SUCH SENIOR POST, I.E., TCD POST.

-- WE HAVE NOMINATED OUTSTANDING CANDIDATES FOR TCD POST
AND OUTSTANDING CANDIDATE FOR WFC AND HOPE UK WILL BE ABLE
TO SUPPORT AMERICAN CANDIDATES FOR BOTH POSTS.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMUNICATING ABOVE TO SIR MICHAEL AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE AND DEFINITELY WELL BEFORE WFC MEETING IN
MEXICO CITY JUNE 14-16. CHRISTOPHER

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